

ELI AND ELIZABETH ANN NELSON GORDON



Eli Gordon was born at Richmond, Virginia, Aug. 26, 1847. He married Elizabeth Ann Nelson, born on February 29, 1852, daughter of Henry and Sarah Ann Richmond Nelson. Elizabeth Ann passed away September 3, 1920, and Eli died June 1, 1922.

Eli was a veteran of the Civil War, having fought for the North, while his father and brother defended the cause of the South.

At the close of the war he came to Utah, where he later married.

He and his wife moved to Wasatch County and lived in Heber and Charleston until about 1886, when they moved with their

867

seven children up into Daniel Canyon. Four more children were born there.

The Gordon home in the canyon was one large log room with a lean-to built on for a kitchen, and was located close to Indian Flat. The Swen Bjorkman family lived below them, so when Esther Bjorkman passed away and Swen left the canyon home, the Gordons moved into his home.

Their acreage was small, but was cultivated for hay, grain and garden crops. There was only canyon water to depend on then and sometimes in the summer there was very little to use. They had a small flock of sheep and some cows.

The Indians were numerous and could not be trusted, but the Gordons were friendly with them and shared with them their scarce and much-needed food. Jim Bridger and his squaw and an Indian called Tabby often came to their home.

One night, while the family was at the supper table, Elizabeth Ann and the children were terrified to see three Indian faces pressed on the window panes. On going out to see what they wanted, Eli found they were friends and that one was suffering from snow blindness. They had traveled all day on web-shoes with the bright sun reflecting back on their faces from the crusted snow. Eli took them in and sat up all night applying packs to the eyes of the afflicted one and in doing so gained their friendship.

Their life in the canyon was hard, but there were happy memories for those who are left to remember.

Elizabeth Ann suffered with a bone disease and had walked with crutches since she was a child. Many times for supper she would set a pan of rich, creamy milk in the center of the table, break some good homemade bread into it and give each child a spoon to eat with, thus eliminating the chore of washing a lot of dishes.

All that is left of their eight or so years in Daniels Canyon is a place called Gordon Twist.

Eli went on a two-year mission to Virginia and the Carolinas. He worked one winter at a mine in American Fork Canyon. He walked with others over the mountains to come home, his toes so badly frozen they had to be amputated, which was done with a meat saw.

Their 11 children are: Henry Eli, Mar-

tha Ann, James Milton, Jessie Nelson, John Jennings, Aaron, Daniel, David Hyrum, Emily Jane, Everett and Elijah Shepardson.